

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating text in response to signals generated by a user, the method comprising:
 - receiving one or more signals generated by the user which specify one or more phonetic symbol categories each of which includes one or more syllables and at least one of which includes two or more syllables;
 - determining that one or more predicted words or phrases include any syllable of each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories; and
 - presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases to the user for selection; wherein one or more of the predicted words or phrases include at least one syllable beyond the one or more syllables of the phonetic symbol categories specified by the signals generated by the user.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the one or more phonetic symbol categories are each associated with a respective distinct consonant by including all syllables that include the respective distinct consonant.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein a vowel one of the one or more phonetic symbol categories is associated with a null consonant.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories corresponds to a distinct respective row of a fifty sounds table.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the signals generated by the user specify each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories in response to a corresponding individual action taken by the user.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein each individual action taken by the user is a single key press.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
determining a kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words or
phrases; and
wherein presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases comprises
presenting the kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words or phrases.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases comprises:
presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases in order of relative frequency of use.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium useful in association with a computer which includes a processor and a memory, the computer readable medium including computer instructions which are configured to cause the computer to generate text in response to signals generated by a user by:

receiving one or more signals generated by the user which specify one or more phonetic symbol categories each of which includes one or more syllables and at least one of which includes two or more syllables;

determining that one or more predicted words or phrases include any syllable of each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories; and

presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases to the user for selection;
wherein one or more of the predicted words or phrases include at least one syllable beyond the one or more syllables of the phonetic symbol categories specified by the signals generated by the user.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 9 wherein the one or more phonetic symbol categories are each associated with a respective distinct consonant by including all syllables that include the respective distinct consonant.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein a vowel one of the one or more phonetic symbol categories is associated with a null consonant.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories corresponds to a distinct respective row of a fifty sounds table.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 9 wherein the signals generated by the user specify each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories in response to a corresponding individual action taken by the user.

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 13 wherein each individual action taken by the user is a single key press.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 9 wherein the computer instructions are configured to cause the computer to generate Japanese text in response to signals generated by a user by also:

determining a kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words or phrases; and

wherein presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases comprises presenting the kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words or phrases.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 9 wherein presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases comprises:

presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases in order of relative frequency of use.

17. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

at least one input module for enabling a user to generate input signals;

at least one display module; and

user input logic (i) which is operatively coupled between the input device and the display device and (ii) which generates text in response to the input signals generated by the user by:

receiving one or more signals generated by the user which specify one or more phonetic symbol categories each of which includes one or more syllables and at least one of which includes two or more syllables;

determining that one or more predicted words or phrases include any syllable of each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories; and

presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases to the user for selection;

wherein one or more of the predicted words or phrases include at least one syllable beyond the one or more syllables of the phonetic symbol categories specified by the signals generated by the user.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 17 wherein the one or more phonetic symbol categories are each associated with a respective distinct consonant by including all syllables that include the respective distinct consonant.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 18 wherein a vowel one of the one or more phonetic symbol categories is associated with a null consonant.

20. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 18 wherein each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories corresponds to a distinct respective row of a fifty sounds table.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17 wherein the input signals generated by the user specify each of the one or more phonetic symbol categories in response to a corresponding individual action taken by the user.

22. (Original) The device of Claim 21 wherein each individual action taken by the user is a single key press of the input module.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 17 wherein the text input logic generates Japanese text in response to the input signals generated by the user by also:

determining a kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words or phrases; and

wherein presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases comprises presenting the kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words or phrases in the display module.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17 wherein presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases comprises:

presenting the one or more predicted words or phrases in order of relative frequency of use.

25. (Original) The device of Claim 17 wherein the device is a wireless telephone.

26. (Original) The device of Claim 17 wherein the device is a text messaging

device.

27. (Original) The device of Claim 17 wherein the device is a computer.
28. (Original) The device of Claim 17 wherein the input module comprises a numerical keypad.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the phonetic symbol categories are respective distinct rows of Japanese kana as arranged in the Japanese fifty sounds table.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the one or more words or phrases include one or more characters, each of which is selected from a group consisting of kanji and kana.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the one or more words are organized into phrases, each of which includes one or more words.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 wherein the kanji representation includes one or more characters, each of which is selected from a group consisting of kanji and kana.
33. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 9 wherein the phonetic symbol categories are respective distinct rows of Japanese kana as arranged in the Japanese fifty sounds table.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 9 wherein the one or more words or phrases include one or more characters, each of which is selected from a group consisting of kanji and kana.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 9 wherein the one or more words are organized into phrases, each of which includes one or more words.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 15 wherein the kanji representation includes one or more characters, each of which is selected from a group consisting of kanji and kana.

37. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 17 wherein the phonetic symbol categories are respective distinct rows of Japanese kana as arranged in the Japanese fifty sounds table.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17 wherein the one or more words or phrases include one or more characters, each of which is selected from a group consisting of kanji and kana.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 17 wherein the one or more words are organized into phrases, each of which includes one or more words.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 23 wherein the kanji representation includes one or more characters, each of which is selected from a group consisting of kanji and kana.